HARD LUCK FOR LEUBE

He Had to Kill a Sailor to Save Himself.

H. Leube, an American sailing ship officer, who arrived here as first mate of the barkentine James Tuft, tells a long story of hardship and trouble which he experienced in South Africa. He was convicted of killing a Greek sailor on the American bark Palmyra, while that vessel was lying in Port Elizabeth, and up to four months ago, has been serving time for his crime in Breakwater prison at Cape Town. Leube was for two years agent for the Matson Navigation Company at Hilo, and is well known to everyone connected with the inter-island trade.

Today Leube is in fairly good health, although when he left the South African prison he was wasted greatly from the powerful man he was at the time of his conviction. He had made four trips to South Africa as first mate of the Palmyra from Puget Sound and was well liked by the owners of that vessel. Then on arrival for the fifth time at the open roadstead at Algoa Bay, where the big shipping disaster recently happened, there was trouble with the crew. Owing to the dangerous position that the ship was in and to the fact that the vessel's cargo had to be lightered to the port's wharves, Leube ordered the sailors to cease smoking while they were working the cargo in the hold. The men rebelled at this order and openly stated that they would kill the mate if he dared to go down in the hold while they were at work. Leube heard of these threats, and knowing that he had desperate men to deal with, armed himself with a revolver on the occasion of his next visit to the men at work in the hold. When he got down below the mutinous crew made threats that they would kill him and became so abusive that he decided to put them in irons. He ordered them from the hold. Then they showed fight. The Greek sailor had a lumber pick which he tried to use on the mate. Finally, in the face of the mate's threatening revolver, he left the hold, shouting at the mate that he "would fix him." Thinking that the Greek was the most dangerous man in the lot and that he was then seeking arms the mate decided to put him in irons first. He followed him to the fo'c's'le but found that the man had barred him out. He called out to him to come out, but the sailor refused. Then, with a revolver in his hand, Leube tried to break the door in. He feared to go aft to get help as he thought the sailor might shoot him in the back on his way to the cabin. The sailors refused to assist him. Finally the door gave way, and the mate fell in on top of the Greek. The revolver went off at the same time and killed the sailor.

Leube was arrested and tried for the killing. Every man in the crew gave evidence against him. The jury sat on the case for an hour and a half, heard all the evidence in that time and brought in a verdict of guilty without leaving their seats. A judge, since dead, told the mate, in sentencing him, that he hated his job. He wished that Leube could have been tried in an American court. He declared that he disagreed with the verdict, but that he must do his duty, and so would sentence Leube to five years' imprisonment at Breakwater prison.

Leube's imprisonment occurred just at the outbreak of the war, when all kinds of criminals were being "stowed away" by the Cape Colony police in the terrible Breakwater "college." Every nationality could be found within the prison. During the war there were two parties there, the one siding with the Boers and the other with the English, and feeling ran high among the convicts over the subject.

The Yankee "sea dog" was looked over by the governor of the prison on his arrival there, and with a remark that the new convict had come from the sea, gave instructions to give Leube a chance to continue working at his trade by allowing him to make the canvas mail bags used by the Cape Colony department of posts and telegraphs.

Leube was well known to every sailing ship owner on the coast, and as soon as the news reached them that the mate had been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for what appeared to them as justifiable homicide or accident they immediately set schemes going to secure his release. They secured evidence of facts in the case quickly and then forwarded a petition to the governor of Cape Colony, asking for Leube's release. This was in December, 1901, and after the matter had been referred to the cabinet of Sir Walter Hely-Hutchison, that official decided to reduce the sentence to three years, granting his release on May 10th of 1902.

At this point Mate Leube declared that Consul Bingham at Cape Town took a hand in the affair. Bingham is a Kansas man, a farmer, and it is said that after securing his appointment he rushed away to the South African metropolis without even waiting to take the straw out of his boots or the chaff from his hair. At any rate Cape Town had a good time with the Kansas man and set him down as a rustic. Bingham learned of the coming release of Mate Leube. He knew that the convict was a sea-faring man and that he made his living by making trips across the briny, yet he wrote him a letter advising him the mate to immediately send home for money to pay his steamer passage back upon his release. With dozens of ships in port and all anxious to get men Leube declared that the Kansan perpetrated one of the best jokes he had heard for a long time.

On being released from prison Leube got a place on the following day as second mate of the ship John Currier, and made a trip to Newcastle in that vessel. At Newcastle he left the vessel and became first mate of the James Tuft.

Leube has many friends about the islands and few believe that he intentionally shot the Greek in Port Elizabeth, and they consider that an innocent man was unjustly punished.

Supt. McVeigh of the leper settlement reports the conviction at Molokai of two Chinese swipes makers, each of whom were fined $100 and costs.

BUSINESS MEN TELL OF ISLANDS' NEEDS

Planters Association and Merchants Offer Memorials Which Set Forth Views on Many Important Subjects.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Business and trade, commerce and alleged broken faith engaged the attention of the Senatorial Commission yesterday and it was a merry dance that the minds of the gentlemen had in keeping in touch with the many subjects, presented at various times by the men who appeared.

Trade bodies and private citizens came before the Commission and taken on the whole it was the most varied day that has been spent by the members, for they had interjected into it a luau luncheon, which delayed the afternoon session for some time. Taken as a whole too the members found themselves set right on many matters which affect the interests of the Territory, and there was a perceptible change of feeling toward the chief industry.

Today promises to be one of the liveliest hearings of the entire session. A. S. Humphreys was on the stand when the session closed last evening. He had been promised time and was put on about half past four o'clock and had only fairly got started when the session was closed, as the members of the commission were going out to dinner. There was some little clouding in the minds of the members of the Commission when Humphreys began. Senator Mitchell said to him: "You have appeared before this body in two capacities. First you came as amicus curae for the people of the Territory and later as the attorney for the former Queen of Hawaii. In which of these capacities do you appear now?" Humphreys said he was coming under the general invitation to the people to present any matters they thought to be of importance, and in addition to a special attention given by one of the members of the Commission. Some one in the audience whispered, "Butt in," and with that, whether or not it was audible, the argument and the statement went on.

There will be given up to the hearings only this morning's session, and it is more than likely that the lanais of the hotel where the session will be held beginning at nine o'clock will be the scene of a lively conflict of wits. Some of the local members of the bar and business men stated to the members of the commission yesterday afternoon that the statements which they would hear this morning demanded denial, and at least one was invited to appear. Attorney General Dole announced that he would ask to be heard when Humphreys was concluded, and the Commission said they would be glad to hear him. After noon the Commission will be taken for a ride about the harbor and perhaps to Pearl Harbor in the John A. Cummins, as the guests of the Chamber of Commerce and there will be given to this inspection of the harbors the entire afternoon. There will then be nothing done until Monday for Sunday will be taken up with a trip to Waialua, where the members of the party will be the guests of Capt. Whiting.

When the Commission met at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning the Naval Station room was filled with visitors, the business men of the city being in the preponderance. Chairman Mitchell announced that he had given the first time for the morning to the Chamber of Commerce, and that the business interests would be heard first. There were delegations from each of the Associations in the room.

Chairman Irwin of the Chamber rose and thanked the Chairman of the Commission saying also that the Chamber would wait until there was opportunity to proffer something new, filling in any gaps which might remain in the testimony offered by the various associations. He suggested the presence of a delegation from the Planters' Association and called upon Francis Mills Swanzy, one of the trustees, to take the floor. This was done and Mr. Swanzy read the former memorial:

Statement concerning the Hawaiian Labor Supply, presented to the Honorable Members of the Commission of the United States Senate, on behalf of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, September 12th, 1902.

The Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association is made up of the sugar planting corporations and sugar plantation owners of the Territory, and its object is to make improvements in the manufacture of sugar and to attend to all matters relating to the interest of the sugar industry in these islands. A board of nine trustees attends to the business of the Association, and it is by this board that the following representations are made:

The number of plantations on the islands is fifty-two, of which number forty-six are fitted out with their own independent factories.

The total amount of capital invested in these plantations is about $56,000,000, and the amount of taxes paid annually by these plantations to the Territorial Government is about $620,000.

The number of persons at present employed in cane cultivation and manufacture is about 28,500.

Last season's sugar crop was 300,038 tons, and the number of tons which have been shipped this season so far is about 300,000.

Our sugar is shipped either by direct steamer or sailing vessel to New York, by steamer or sailing vessel to San Francisco and thence by the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. to New York, or it is shipped to San Francisco for use in the California refineries.

The carrying of the sugar to New York by long sea is largely conducted by the American-Hawaiian S. S. Co. This company, which is the pioneer company of American built cargo boats, owes its origin to the sugar industry of these islands. The company's fleet consists of seven steamers of an aggregate tonnage of 45,000 tons.

There is engaged in the carriage of our sugar to California a large fleet of American steamers and sailing vessels.

These few statistics serve to show the magnitude of the sugar business, the success or failure of which depends to so large an extent on a sufficient supply of labor. For field labor in Hawaii a large proportion of Japanese and Chinese are an absolute necessity, in so far as no other class of labor is procurable to any great extent.

Other cane sugar-growing countries either possess an indigenous laboring population for cultivation, or have within easy reach people who are readily obtainable for tropical field work and whose physique and constitution enable them to undertake such field work without fear of injury to their health.

The native population of the Hawaiian Islands is very limited, and the tendency of the laboring class is not towards field work. They make good mechanics, and a large portion are engaged in a variety of trades, but agricultural labor appears to be distasteful to them, and the number employed on sugar estates is so small as to be hardly worth mentioning. This being so, it has in past years been necessary to promote immigration of field laborers to the islands, and many countries have been drawn from. There has in the past been emigration from Germany, Norway and Sweden, Azores, Madeira, Portugal, Galicia, China and Japan, besides which British, Americans, Italians and Negroes (from the United States) have come in small numbers.

So far as the Europeans and the Americans are concerned, they have, with one exception, been found unfitted for tropical field work; they could not perform it, and never for long labored in the fields. The one exception noted is that of the Portuguese from Madeira and the Azores, who for a few years after their arrival showed themselves willing and capable to perform good field work. The improved condition of their own countries no longer necessitating emigration, these people now show no disposition to come to these Islands. Of the Portuguese who originally came to Hawaii as assisted emigrants those who did not go to the mainland have so prospered that now they do not engage to any large extent in field labor, and their children, by the aid of the excellent Hawaiian free school system, have fitted themselves for more congenial occupation than agricultural labor affords.

The impossibility of securing a sufficient supply of Hawaiian or other laborers able to endure the work in cane fields forced the planters of these islands into a reliance on China and Japan for the necessary supply. The Chinese have always proved themselves to be a law-abiding, docile and industrious people, but the United States exclusion laws shut out this nationality from Hawaii as soon as annexation became an accomplished fact, and our sole dependence is now placed on Japan for such intermittent supply of labor as is attracted hither by the certainty of improved conditions.

Since annexation the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of field labor for sugar plantations has been enormous. Chinese are absolutely prohibited, and but few Japanese come, while at the same time numbers of Chinese and Japanese leave the islands monthly.

To show just what the conditions are in this respect it may be stated that from August 1st, 1901, to June 3d, 1902, 5,352 Japanese men arrived in the country and 2,880 left the country, making the total increase in that period only 2,472, and that of Chinese 188 men arrived and 1,418 left, making a total decrease of 1,230, so there was a net increase in the Japanese and Chinese population of only 1,242, not including women, which number are not necessarily field laborers alone.

When the labor conditions which had to be faced after annexation were realized the Planters' Association set about finding laborers on the continent of the United States. Some Portuguese were brought from the neighbourhood of New Bedford, and some Italians were secured in the Eastern States and started for Hawaii, but the bulk of them dropped out on the way across the continent and but comparatively few reached these islands. An unsuccessful attempt to get negroes of a better class was made, and finally about 2,939 Puerto Rican men with their families were brought here, at very great expense. Agents from this Association were for long established on the mainland and traveled over its length and breadth to find there such labor as our plantations demanded. It was by no means a question with us of Asiatic labor alone, but one of any kind of labor, and yet wherever we turned we found that the great continent had readily absorbed all the labor there was, and there was no surplus for us.

The efforts to find some way of cultivating our cane fields were not confined to those above mentioned. There existed in the minds of some the impression that the proper way to conduct a plantation was to divide the land into small lots and place them in the hands of white men to cultivate, instead of doing the work of cultivation by day laborers working for a wage under one controlling management. Accordingly the Ewa Plantation on this island of Oahu, decided to experiment with American farmers. Fifteen families of highly respectable people were carefully selected in the Western States, and all their expenses paid to the plantation, where houses had been erected for them, each with a garden patch surrounding it, and where a large patch of common land had been set apart for their use as pasture for such stock as they desired to keep. Here they were given parcels of land to cultivate in cane, on a profit sharing basis, and every help was rendered in the way of ploughing and preparing their fields, but notwithstanding this and all the Ewa Plantation Co. expended on this most creditable effort to raise cane by white farmers, these people were not able to perform the necessary labor, and they drifted away by degrees, so that in about a year none of the fifteen families were left. Other experiments of a similar nature have been made, with like results. The planters generally are prepared to encourage the cultivation of cane by small farmers, if there is any assurance that the undertakings will be carried out.

In connection with the questions of homesteading and of developing Hawaii on strictly American lines, it is proper to point out that all the lands cultivated by plantation companies who find it necessary to irrigate, because of the uncertainty of the rainfall, were either arid wastes or bare pasture lands before they were acquired by these companies, who sunk artesian wells, established expensive pumping plants, constructed their ditches and pipe lines, and at enormous cost brought water onto the lands, and thereby made agriculture a possibility. If development of homesteaders only had been possible, the lands which are now cane fields would be in their primitive condition, because their irrigation was only rendered possible by the investment of a very large amount of capital.

Apart from this fact, there remains the all-important consideration that even if white men could labor in the cane fields, and were willing to undertake such work, there is no possibility of obtaining from any quarter, and least of all from the United States mainland, a sufficient number to fill our needs.

At present, as has been said, Japan is the only source of our labor supply, and while no dissatisfaction with the work people of that country is either expressed or implied, our experience has taught us that it, like all other countries from which we have in the past endeavored to introduce laborers, is not to be relied upon for that regular and sufficient supply which is essential to our success as a cane sugar country; and we believe that a properly regulated and restricted immigration of Chinese field laborers would solve our difficulty without in the slightest degree interfering with the welfare of the native or American population of the group. On the contrary, as the prosperity of the staple industry of these islands increases, so will that of the entire population irrespective of nationality or occupation, as sugar is the pivot on which we revolve, and on the success of the sugar industry depends the well-being of every resident in the islands.

Surprise has at times been expressed by those of imperfect knowledge of our conditions that other industries besides sugar do not attract more attention in Hawaii, but a more intimate acquaintance with us has speedily discovered the fact that while the possibilities of this country outside of the sugar industry are not inconsiderable, the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labor stands always in the way of enterprise, alongside of other difficulties which need not be here referred to.

A few years back great hopes were entertained that the cultivation of coffee could be profitably undertaken on a large scale. It had been grown in a somewhat unscientific manner for years, and was always widely esteemed by reason of its excellent quality, and there was every reason to believe that with the adoption of modern methods the coffee industry could be made a flourishing and profitable one. Large tracts of land were divided into homesteads by the government, and private lands were acquired by enterprising farmers; costly drying houses and cleaning plants were erected, and all the plans were laid for the conduct of the business on a sound basis. Much of the work of a coffee plantation can be accomplished by white men with a comparatively moderate amount of help, but during the critical time of harvesting the crop, when a large amount of work had to be accomplished in a very short time, the necessary number of pickers was not forthcoming, and as the fall in the value of coffee occurred about this time, it was impossible for the planters to pay the high wages demanded by laborers, and the coffee industry of Hawaii declined, while that of other countries more favored in their labor conditions, apparently continues to flourish despite the fact that there is no serious a difference between the coffee market today and that of a few years ago. It is not unreasonable to suppose that if the labor supply of these islands was abundant, and if coffee was subject to a protective tariff in the United States, the industry would survive and give profitable and agreeable occupation to many.

The rice industry of the islands has always been a large one, but the exclusion of Chinese from the islands will have the effect of gradually reducing the area of rice under cultivation, until before long little or none will be raised; a valuable industry will be lost, and the land rentals, which amount to so considerable a total, will no longer accrue to the owners, very many of whom are Hawaiians.

The revenue derived by the government from rice lands will, of course, be lost, should rice cultivation be discontinued in these islands, and to give some idea of the value of the Chinese to the Territory as taxpayers, it might be proper to mention that they pay taxes to the amount of about $135,000 annually.

The arguments commonly used against Chinese immigration are so well known that it is unnecessary to repeat them, or even to refer to them further than to say that while they may be good when applied to the mainland, they cannot with justice be applied to Hawaii. Laws and regulations which cover all the conditions existing on the mainland do not of necessity fit our conditions, and we urgently and with all deference would ask that the excellent laws and regulations of the United States be so modified for Hawaii, not only in respect to labor matters, but in many other respects, that this country may not suffer by their application.

We fully appreciate the immense amount of work with which Congress has had to deal since these islands became an integral part of the great Republic of the United States, and we know how difficult it has been for members of the Senate and House of Representatives to find time to study the conditions prevailing here in Hawaii, but now that you gentlemen have favored us with this most welcome visit, we feel that the conditions and needs of this outlying Territory will be more perfectly understood, and that we may reasonably expect to have accorded to us permission to avail ourselves of an assured labor supply.

We would respectfully ask that in considering this question, and in laying it before others, you bear the following few facts in mind:

1. The industries on which these islands depend for their commercial existence are sugar and rice, but mainly sugar.

2. The shipping, the extent and value of our purchases on the mainland, the well-being of our merchants, professional men and mechanics depends either directly or indirectly on these industries.

3. The success of these industries depends on an adequate and reliable supply of labor.

4. There is practically no indigenous population to draw field labor from.

5. Apart from the impossibility of procuring American laborers in sufficient numbers, they cannot and will not work in tropical cane fields.

6. If by reason of these islands not having a sufficient labor supply, or if the full protection of the tariff is curtailed, our industries will naturally suffer as will the trade of the mainland with us; a trade by the way which is the largest enjoyed by mainland manufacturers and traders with any country of the size of the Territory of Hawaii.

So far as the labor situation is concerned, we respectfully submit that these six points, or facts, cover the ground, and believe that when you have studied the conditions prevailing here you will thoroughly agree in their accuracy.

Respectfully submitted.

During the reading there were many questions brought out. When the coffee subject was touched Senators Foster and Burton showed much interest and asked for further information. The latter wanted not only the present production but as well what might be expected in ten years' time. He asked if it would not serve the same purpose as protection if there was a bounty on coffee, which would give the planters equal advantage. He said there would be objection to a tariff unless there was a prospect of entire filling of the American demand by local production, when it would come under the Republican principle of protection of a home product.

Among the many points raised, when the matter of labor was up, Senator Burton said that something had been said before the Commission as to the system of contractual labor and charges of bad treatment. Mr. Swanzy replied that any statement that a laborer was ill treated was absolutely and unequivocally false; the statement that the planters were cruel was untrue. He paid a compliment to the managers, who he said were clever men. He continued that while it was not a profitable or pleasant task to take off mud thrown, it was sometimes necessary to do it. He then proceeded to meet some of the points which had been raised.

As to the charge that the houses were unfit for habitation, he said that any such statement must came from ignorance. Senator Burton said that if the Ewa houses were samples they were good enough for any one.

The food was said to be unfit for humans, whereas except in the case of Japanese who had just landed, and who were furnished meat because they were unaccustomed to it, there was never any food furnished by the estates.

The statement that no effort was made to secure white labor he said was untrue, as shown by his statement. He went over the experiments made by Ewa, the white men at Lihue, Capt. Makee's experiments and others and W. O. Smith talked of the negroes used at Spreckelsville.

As to the two instances of cruelty alleged in reports, he said that these were the only points found in many years. He said reports of cruelty were not common.

He said the statement that the employees were subject to espionage and brutality was untrue.

The statement that large bodies of Japanese were brought in in anticipation of annexation was false. There was a long statement as to the sending back of some laborers who came without compliance with the laws.

As to the reference to the condition of the Porto Ricans, he said it was adroit, but in fact the condition of the Porto Ricans was bad when they sailed from home and here they were treated with every consideration and were considerably improved in health after they had become acclimated.

He said the charge that white mechanics were being forced out by Orientals was untrue, for the reason that there was not so much work now and the men had gone back to the Coast. He cited the Iron works and the Young building as places where many mechanics had been discharged on account of nothing for them to do.

As to the statement that there had been only pretense of securing white labor he said that the American did not work with a pick and shovel. He said the average wage here was $18 a month. He denied the charge of holding back wages, saying it was a case if one did not work he did not get pay.

Senator Burton asked if with the labor door closed here and open in Cuba, that would give an advantage there, and was told that in the opinion of the witness it would. The Chamber of Commerce promised to furnish full data as to the cost of producing sugar.

Again Senator Burton wanted to know if there was objection on the part of the Hawaiians to Chinese, and was told by several that there was not, and Mr. Irwin said that the Hawaiian preferred dock labor to the plantations.

Senator Cecil Brown read the following argument of the bankers on coinage:

BANKERS' MEMORIAL.

Honolulu, H. T., Sept. 11, 1902.

To the Honorable Commission of the United States Senate.

Gentlemen:—Under Act of the Hawaiian Government in the year 1883, $1,000,000 in silver coin, $500,000 in dollars, $250,000 in halves, $125,000 in quarters and $25,000 in dimes of the same weight and fineness as United States coin were minted in San Francisco and put into circulation in these Islands, from 1884 to 1886, replacing a silver coinage consisting of Mexicans, 5-franc pieces, pesos, sols, etc.

The Hawaiian silver had a legal tender value of $10, United States gold being required under the Hawaiian laws for larger amounts. At no time has there been any difference in the value of Hawaiian as compared with United States

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